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Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 SAM-01 /113 W
---------- 038718
R 141544Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9824
INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMCONSUL OPORTO UNN
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: SPINOLA URGES WEEDING OF POLITICAL GARDEN

REF: LISBON 2411

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SPINOLA IN ANOTHER SPEECH TO TROOPS AGAIN STRESSED NEED FOR MILITARY VIGILANCE AGAINST "FALSE PORTUGUESE" WHO SEEK TO POISON MINDS OF SOLDIERS AND PEOPLE. HE LIKENED SUCH "TRAITORS", SOME OF WHOM HE SAID HAD POSITIONS OF PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY, TO WEEDS IN WHEAT FIELD WHICH SHOULD BE EXTIRPATED. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE SPEECHES LIKE THESE ARE PART LONGRANGE PLAN BY SPINOLA TO CREATE A PERSONALITY CULT, GAIN CONTROL OF ARMY, AND RUN AS SAVIOR OF NATION IN NEXT YEARS' ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER A SERIES OF RECENT VISITS TO KEY MILITARY REGIONAL COMMANDS, (REFTEL) PRESIDENT SPINOLA JUNE 12 MADE HIS FIRST STOP AT A MILITARY UNIT, VISITING 5TH INFANTRY REGIMENT IN CALDAS DA RAINHA, WHERE FORCES
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INVOLVED IN MARCH 16 ABORTIVE REVOLT ARE BASED. IN

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SPEECH TO TROOPS SPINOLA CONTINUED TO HAMMER HARD AT NEED FOR ORDER, DISCIPLINE AND MILITARY VIGILANCE AGAINST EXTREMISTS. HE LAUDED THOSE IN REGIMENT WHO PARTICIPATED IN MARCH 16 CALDAS REVOLT AS EXAMPLES OF THE COURAGE, DECISIVENESS AND PATRIOTISM NEEDED BY COUNTRY AT PRESENT.

2. SPEAKING "SOLDIER TO SOLDIER" PRESIDENT SAID TIME HAS NOW COME TO GO BEYOND INITIAL PERIOD OF NATURAL EUPHORIA TO BUILD NEW PORTUGAL ON FOUNDATION OF PEACE AND WORK. "FALSE PORTUGUESE", HE WARNED" ARE OUT TO "POISON" SOLDIERS, WHO ARE ONE WITH THE PEOPLE, THEREBY BLOCKING NATION'S ADVANCEMENT. THESE FALSE PORTUGUESE SEEK TO TRANSFORM SOLDIERS INTO INSTRUMENTS OF "HIDDEN POLITICAL INTERESTS." HE ADDED THAT "TIME HAS ARRIVED TO KNOW HOW TO SEPARATE WHEAT FROM CHAFF. IT IS TIME TO HOE THE FIELD FROM WHICH SPRINGS THE SOURCE OF WEALTH, CUTTING DOWN THE WEED WHICH SEEKS TO CHOKE OUT THE GROWING WHEAT". THIS HE STRESSED IS LANGUAGE WHICH FROM NOW ON THE COUNTRY MUST BEGIN TO HEAR FROM THE ARMED FORCES.

3. ON SAME THEME SPINOLA ALSO LAMBASTED AS "TRAITORS OF THE PEOPLE" THOSE MEN NOW HOLDING POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN PUBLIC LIFE WHO ADVOCATE A "SCORCHED EARTH" POLICY WHICH WOULD FIRST DESTROY PORTUGAL IN ORDER TO BUILD ANOTHER PORTUGAL ON THE RUINS "USING OUR FLESH AND BLOOD AS MOTAR". AGAINST THESE MEN THE ARMED FORCES MUST BE VIGILANT, HE WARNED.

4. ON OVERSEAS QUESTION, SPINOLA REITERATED COUNTRY OPEN TO "ALL JUST AND HUMAN" SOLUTIONS WHICH RESPECT SOVEREIGN WILL OF PEOPLE IN TERRITORIES. HE SAID THIS IS LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY, AND THAT "WE ARE NOT WILLING TO BE BETRAYED BY THOSE WHO BY VARIOUS WAYS SEEK TO ROB LIBERTY FROM THE PEOPLE".

5. COMMENT: STERNESS OF LANGUAGE IN SPINOLA'S WARNINGS AGAINST EXTREMISTS INCREASING WITH EACH SPEECH, AND IT IS BECOMING CLEARER THAT EXTREMISTS ON LEFT, NOT RIGHT,
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ARE OBJECTS OF HIS CONCERN. SPINOLA'S GROWING ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF WITH, AND AS LEADER OF RANK AND FILE SOLDIERS ARE SEEN BY RESPECTED LIBERAL WEEKLY EXPRESSO AS GENTLE BUT FIRM MOVE BY HIM TO GAIN AUTHORITY OVER ARMY AND MFA. EXPRESSO BELIEVES SPINOLA IS DELIBERATELY CREATING A PERSONALITY CULT (SPINOLISM) AROUND HIMSELF, MUCH LIKE DE GAULLE DID IN FRANCE. (ONE CONSERVATIVE GROUP HAS ALREADY SUGGESTED SPINOLA BE

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GIVEN MILITARY RANK OF MARSHAL AND NATIONAL LIBERATOR.)
LARGE DOWNTOWN MONUMENT TO MARQUES DE POMBAL NOW SPORTS
PLACARD STATING THAT SPINOLA DESERVES AS BIG A
MONUMENT AS POMBAL.) EXPRESSO PUTS FORTH A SCENARIO
IN WHICH SPINOLA, WITH COSTA GOMES' SUPPORT, FIRST
ESTABLISHES FIRM CONTROL OVER MILITARY, THEN RESHUFFLES
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE HIS INFLUENCE IN
IT. THIRD STEP OCCURS AROUND NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS
WHEN SPINOLA CREATES A BROAD POLITICAL FORCE BASED ON
HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE AND RUNS IN ELECTIONS AS PERSONAL
GUARANTOR OF POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY AGAINST POLITICAL
PARTIES WHICH SEEK TO DIVIDE NATION. WE CONSIDER THIS
SCENARIO MORE A A POSSIBILITY THAN A COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER
AND A PROBABILITY IF SPINOLA SHOULD JUDGE A COMMUNIST
ELECTORAL VICTORY TO BE EVEN A REMOTE POSSIBILITY. SCOTT

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